

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 13, 2001 — U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today that Alabama is receiving \$5.8 million for community agencies that assist victims of crime.

"This funding comes from fines and penalties paid by federal criminal offenders, not from taxpayers," said Bachus. "It will help Alabama crime victims in a variety of ways, including emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence, counseling for rape victims and programs to aid abused children."

The \$5.8 million comes from the Crime Victims Fund, which was established by Congress in 1984. Under the program, fines collected in one year by U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Courts and the Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the Fund and are available for grant awards to states the following year.

More than 34,000 Alabamians received assistance through the Crime Victims Fund grant in 1999, the last year figures are available. That number includes almost 21,000 victims of domestic violence, about 7,000 victims of child sexual abuse and almost 2,000 adult victims of sexual assault.

"Fighting crime means not only locking criminals up, it means protecting victims' rights and responding compassionately to their needs," said Bachus.

Last month, Alabama was awarded \$1.89 million from the Crime Victims Fund to reimburse victims of crime for crime-related expenses such as medical costs and mental health counseling